

the remote narcotic effects of the ergot is entirely removed by the preparation just described.

*Hydrg. Cyanogenat*.—Dr. Schneebeli has found six grains of this preparation, combined with half an ounce of lard, to be a very effectual remedy in cases of hydrocele, both congenital and acquired. It is to be rubbed into the scrotum once or twice daily. The removal of the swelling is effected by it in a short time, and permanently. In some cases, where the skin is very delicate, inflammation and ulceration have followed its use.

*Argenti Nitric*.—From the strong recommendation of others, Dr. Rahn was induced to try the effects of this article in cholera infantum. He believes it not to be well adapted to the first stages of the disease. It quickly arrests the discharge from the bowels, but not permanently, the slightest cause inducing their return; and if the remedy is continued for any length of time, it is apt to produce a submucous inflammation of the intestines, endangering the occurrence of marasmus, particularly in very young patients. In the more chronic forms of the disease, attended with an exhausting diarrhoea, the nitrate of silver will often be found beneficial; even in these cases, however, Dr. Rahn considers the bitter astringents, especially the cinchonin and salacin, to be preferable remedies, the long continuance of the latter being unattended with the danger consequent upon the protracted administration of the former.

*Ol. Jecor. Asselli*.—As a corrigent of this remedy, Dr. Diener recommends the *elix. pect. Danic*, one part of the latter to from two to five of the oil. The external application of the oil, combined with opodiodoc and spir. sal. ammon. caust., he praises as an external application in cases of scrofula, rhachitis and arthritis.

*Iodkali*.—By a methodical pressure, by means of a plate of lead and adhesive plaster, and the internal use of Iodkali, given to the extent of producing intoxication, Dr. Schäfer succeeded in healing a case of scirrrous mamma. He gave the remedy in the form of pills, commencing with four grains, and gradually augmenting the dose to eight grains, daily. The treatment occupied from ten to twelve months.

*Succus Dauci rec. exp.*.—Dr. Rahn is of opinion that this remedy has fallen improperly into disuse. He has seen the best effects result from its use, to the extent of from three to four ounces daily, in cases of hepatitis, chronic jaundice, and congestion of the portal system.

D. F. C.

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ART. XXVI.—*Ueber Aether-Rausch (Phrenopathia aetherea), mit besonderer Rücksicht auf die jüngsten Erfahrungen in England und Frankreich, von DR. E. NATHAN, Practischen Arzte in Hamburg. 8vo. 50 pp. Hamburg: 1847.*

*On Ether-Intoxication (Phrenopathia aetherea), with especial reference to the most recent Observations in England and France, by E. NATHAN, M. D., of Hamburg.*

THIS is a sensible, calm, and cautious exposition of the practice of ether inhalation, as a means of inducing insensibility to pain during surgical operations and in parturition, and for relieving painful and other disagreeable symptoms in various cases of disease. The author, it is true, presents nothing new on the subject, but he has compared and arranged, with great judgment, the numerous observations in reference to the subject that had been made public up to the period when his communication was written. He has given, with the most perfect impartiality, the testimony borne in favour of the exhibition of the ether as an anodyne, by the leading physicians and surgeons of England, France, and Germany, and with equal honesty, he has detailed a variety of cases, collected from the leading medical journals of Europe, in which the use of the ether gave rise to disagreeable, injurious, or even fatal results. Dr. Nathan is perfectly alive to the importance, under particular circumstances, of the surgeon and physician having at their command a means of inducing insensibility to pain, without endangering either present or future injury to the constitution; he is, nevertheless, neither carried away by the popular cry in favour of the ether inhalation, nor prepared from the reported instances of its injurious effects to condemn its use under all circumstances and

in all cases. He, however, inculcates caution, and a more minute and careful inquiry into the circumstances and cases in which its employment will be proper or otherwise, and into the extent to which the inhalation may be carried so as to produce its complete anodyne effects, without endangering the life, health, or comfort of the patient.

We recommend a perusal of Dr. Nathan's *Essay to the ardent partizans of ether inhalation in this country*. To hear the enthusiastic praises bestowed upon the practice by some of its advocates, we might be led to believe that under all circumstances, it may be resorted to and carried to any extent, without fear of the slightest bad effects resulting.

D. F. C.

ART. XXVII.—*A Practical Treatise on the Causes, Symptoms, and Treatment of Spermatorrhœa.* By M. LALLEMAND, formerly Prof. Clinic. Surg. at the University of Montpellier, &c. &c. Translated and Edited by HENRY J. McDougall, Member of the Royal Academy of Surgeons of England, &c. &c. pp. 320. 8vo. Phila. Lea & Blanchard: 1848.

WHILE investigating certain cases which had been referred to him as diseases of the brain, M. Lallemand, whose valuable work on these affections is well known to the profession, was struck with the fact that they presented features which were not to be accounted for by any known affection of this organ; upon closer scrutiny he discovered that the patients were affected with involuntary seminal discharges, which laid the foundation of the most serious physical, and moral suffering, destroying the health and energy of the individual, and causing in the end death. A careful study of these cases, about 150 in number, showed him the importance of his discovery, and aware of the entire ignorance, on the part of the profession, of these diseased conditions, he determined to lay the valuable facts he had collected before the profession, even before he had been able to complete the investigation of all their features. Accordingly, in 1836 he published a volume, containing a detailed history of a large number of his cases, which, while they were intended to show chiefly the causes of spermatorrhœa, presented very clearly the symptoms which attended it, and the method of treatment, which, in his hands, had proved completely successful in effecting a cure.

Soon after the appearance of this volume in France, it was translated into English, by Dr. Wood of Portland, Maine, published in Dunglison's Medical Library, and thus extensively circulated throughout the country, carrying to the profession, information respecting this important, but hitherto unexpected class of diseases, of which it was not slow in availing itself. The work, however, was still imperfect, but in 1839 and 1841, the concluding portions were published in France, thus presenting a complete and admirable monograph of this interesting and important disease. No translation of these had been made here, and their matter was hardly known here, for we had become familiar with the main facts and reasonings on the subject, and with the modes of treatment, and the farther study of it had lost much of its practical interest—a matter to be regretted, for these last volumes are full of valuable material, and bear evidence of the great zeal and learning of the author, worthy even of his great reputation.

It is not, however, our intention at this late day, to write a review of this work, but merely to direct attention to the republication in this country of what, on the title page, purports to be a translation, but, in the preface, is called a "condensed edition" of M. Lallemand's work. The translator's aim, as he tells us, has been rather "to render the sense of the author in as few words as possible, than to give a full and literal translation" of a voluminous work, in which, he very justly remarks, there are many repetitions, due to the fact of its different parts having been written at long intervals of time. With a view of diminishing the size of the volume, he presents only a little more than one-half of the original cases; but those retained are quite sufficient to illustrate the subject; and he has omitted all M. Lallemand's "interesting researches on spermatozoa, except so far as they refer to the diagnosis of spermatorrhœa," and other matters of no great practical interest.